



The Old Ironsides Report

Wednesday, May 05, 2004



Task Force 1-37 Armor moves out to new missions

By Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1 AD PAO

With TF 1-37, Iraq -- Many of the Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, "Bandits," are closing in on their first year of deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And, with this anniversary comes a change in scenery and missions for the Bandits.

Leaving their forward operating base, known as Bandit Island, they are relocating to camps southeast of Baghdad to take on a major role in Operation Rapier Thrust.

Augmented by engineer, infantry and military police elements, Task Force 1-37 Armor is ready to complete its missions. The task force will be team up with Coalition partner units from Poland and Thailand in the Multi-National Division -- Central South.

But, the first undertaking in their mission is getting task force juggernaut from Baghdad to its new home.

The first Bandit convoy to head south of Baghdad -- the advance party -- would establish the tactical operations center.

The advance party would serve as a litmus test for the newly chosen convoy route -- an untested, untried course bypassing known areas of enemy activity.

The 1st Brigade Reconnaissance Team (BRT) and cavalry scouts from the task force provided forward reconnaissance and security while AH-64 Apache helicopters provided aerial overwatch.

The convoy commanders did not pretend to think that this would be an easy move.

"This is not a ruck (sack) march or a road march. This is a movement to contact," said convoy officer-in-charge Capt. Jason Irwin, battalion logistics officer (S-4), during his pre-convoy safety briefing.

The convoy was diverse collection of vehicles which included Humvees, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A1 Abrams tanks hauled on Heavy Equipment Transport Trailers (HETT).

"The tanks and Brads will be manned," Irwin said, "I expect them to fire upon contact. If necessary, we will break the chains and bring them down (from the trailers)."

The convoy traveled through several small villages. Rolling through the thinning roads, the atmosphere seemed tense, but the soldiers were not worried.

"We didn't have a welcoming committee," said master gunner Sgt. 1st Class Michael Watson, "but I



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Adcock, Task Force 1-37 Armor assistant operations sergeant, walks down the convoy telling Soldiers to mount up after a brief stop just south of Baghdad. Task Force 1-37 Armor convoyed to Camp Lima southeast of Baghdad in support of Operation Rapier Thrust.

didn't think anything was going to happen."

The convoy rolled through the villages and a voice crackled over the radio announcing that no future convoys would be taking that route.

The Task Force arrived at its destination having traveled about 100 kilometers.

The entrance to Camp Lima, their new home, was plainly marked with a guardhouse manned by Thai forces.

"I was happy the convoy was executed smoothly with few hitches," Irwin said after the convoy arrived. "I was particularly impressed with the (cavalry) scout and BRT elements leading us through hostile territory at night. And, I was also very grateful for the (AH-64) air support. Those three elements were integral to our success."

The Bandits had arrived at their new home.

NEWS...

Doctor: Iraqis Treated Hostage's Wound

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) - Former American hostage Thomas Hamill, who was shot when he was abducted in Iraq, was treated for the wound and regularly received food during his three weeks in captivity, a U.S. military doctor said Tuesday. Hamill, who escaped his captors Sunday in a daring run to freedom, has lost a few pounds but feels "in generally good health," said Maj. Kerry Jepsen, a surgeon treating Hamill at a U.S. military hospital in Germany where the ex-captive arrived Monday.

AP: U.S. Set for Long Haul in Afghanistan

KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan (AP) - The din of bulldozers and steamrollers competes with the roar of aircraft engines at this U.S. outpost for the anti-terror campaign in Afghanistan. The Americans are digging in for the long haul - but walking on eggshells. Based in this majority Muslim nation of 26 million, they are anxious not to offend their hosts or build anything that looks permanent. And beyond the concrete walls surrounding this ex-Soviet base, nearby China, Russia and Iran are all nervously watching the American presence on their doorstep.

Lawmakers Seek Answers on Prisoner Abuse

WASHINGTON (AP) - Stunned by the U.S. military's abuse of Iraqi prisoners, lawmakers demanded answers Tuesday to how it happened. One senator said he feared the abuses may be more widespread than first reported. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., emerged from a closed-door briefing of the Senate Armed Services Committee and said he feared that the allegations made public so far are "the beginning rather than the end" of the abuse allegations.

Interest Rates Not Expected to Change

WASHINGTON (AP) - The economy is motoring ahead, although the labor market, while showing improvements, needs to catch up. That's why economists expect the Federal Reserve to hold short-term interest rates at ultra-low levels for a while longer. An announcement is expected this afternoon after the Federal Open Market Committee meeting. Even so, rates still could move higher later this year.

Recording Companies Agree to Pay \$50M

NEW YORK (AP) - Major recording companies have agreed to return nearly \$50 million in unclaimed royalties to Sean Combs, Gloria Estefan, Dolly Parton and thousands of lesser known musicians under a settlement announced Tuesday. A two-year investigation by New York state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office found that many artists were not being paid royalties because record companies lost contact with the performers and had stopped making required payments.

Interpersonal Communications...

Britons Using Text to Break Up More Often

LONDON (AP) -- Dear John. We're thru :-(

Nine percent of Britons admit to dumping a partner by sending an SMS text message on a cell phone - possibly signaling the beginning of the end for the "Dear John" letter - according to a new survey.

Among those aged 15 to 24, the figure rises to 20 percent.

The mobile phone has also become a magnet of infidelity testing.

Forty-five percent of women owned up to secretly checking the text messages on their partner's phone, compared to 31 percent of men.

Philippa O'Sullivan, 15, from near Basingstoke, in southern England, said using text messages to finish relationships was common among teen-agers, many of whom "find it easier to talk by text."

"I've heard of lots of people, including a couple of my friends, being dumped that way," O'Sullivan said.

The poll, by market research firm NOP for Sicap, a messaging services provider based in Bern, Switzerland, also found that 44 percent had used text messages to flirt; among the 14 to 24-year-olds, the figure rose to 75 percent.

Some 31 percent of adults said they had sent a love letter by text - even among the over-65s, nine percent had done so - and 30 percent said they had argued via SMS, or Short Message Service.

Two percent say they have used text messages to quit a job.

In March alone, according to Britain's Mobile Data Association, Britons sent 2.1 billion text messages, a 25 percent increase from the same month last year.

NOP questioned 771 people aged 15 and over from April 23 to 25 for the poll. No margin of error was given, but on a sample of this size it is likely to be around 3 percentage points either way.

Thought for the day...

Materialism

Fortune magazine quotes a comment made by billionaire H. Ross Perot: "Guys, just remember, if you get real lucky, if you make a lot of money, if you go out and buy a lot of stuff—its' gonna break. You got your biggest, fanciest mansion in the world. It has air conditioning. It's got a pool. Just think of all the pumps that are going to go out. Or go to a yacht basin anyplace in the world. Nobody is smiling, and I'll tell you why. Something broke that morning. The generator's out; the microwave oven doesn't work... Things just don't mean happiness."

Today in history...

May 5, 1981: IRA'S BOBBY SANDS DIES

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) -- On May 5, 1981, imprisoned Irish-Catholic militant Bobby Sands dies after refusing food for 66 days in protest of his treatment as a criminal rather than a political prisoner by British authorities. His death immediately touched off widespread rioting in Belfast, as young Irish-Catholic militants clashed with police and British Army patrols and started fires.

Bobby Sands was born into a Catholic family in a Protestant area of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1954. In 1972, sectarian violence forced his family to move to public housing in a Catholic area, where Sands was recruited by the Provincial Irish Republican Army (IRA). The Provincial IRA, formed in 1969 after a break with the Official IRA, advocated violence and terrorism as a means of winning independence for Northern Ireland from Britain. (The Provincial IRA, the dominant branch, is generally referred to as simply the IRA.) After independence, according to the IRA, Northern Ireland would be united with the Republic of Ireland in a socialist Irish republic. In 1972, Sands was arrested and convicted of taking part in several IRA robberies. Because he was convicted for IRA activities, he was given "special category status" and sent to a prison that was more akin to a prisoner of war camp because it allowed freedom of dress and freedom of movement within the prison grounds. He spent four years there.

After less than a year back on the streets, Sands was arrested in 1977 for gun possession near the scene of an IRA bombing and sentenced to 14 years in prison. Because the British government had enacted a policy of "criminalization" of Irish terrorists in 1976, Sands was imprisoned as a dangerous criminal in the Maze Prison south of Belfast. During the next few years, from his cell in the Maze, he joined other imprisoned IRA terrorists in protests demanding restoration of the freedoms they had previously enjoyed under special category status. In 1980, a hunger strike lasted 53 days before it was called off when one of the protesters fell into a coma. In response, the British government offered a few concessions to the prisoners, but they failed to deliver all they had promised and protests resumed. Sands did not take a direct part in the 1980 strike, but he acted as the IRA-appointed leader and spokesperson of the protesting prisoners.

On March 1, 1981--the fifth anniversary of the British policy of criminalization--Bobby Sands launched a new hunger strike. He took only water and salt, and his weight dropped from 155 pounds to 95 pounds. After two weeks, another protester joined the strike, and six days after that, two more. On April 9, in the midst of the strike, Sands was elected to a vacant seat in the British Parliament from Fermanagh and South Tyrone in Northern Ireland. Parliament subsequently introduced legislation to disqualify convicts serving prison sentences for eligibility for Parliament. His election and fears of violence after his death drew international attention to Sands' protest. In the final week of his life, Pope John Paul II sent a personal envoy to urge Sands to give up the strike. He refused. On May 3, he fell into a coma, and in the early morning of May 5 he died. Fighting raged for days in Belfast, and tens of thousands attended his funeral on May 7.

After Sands' death, the hunger strike continued, and nine more men perished before it was called off on October 3, 1981, under pressure from Catholic Church leaders and the prisoners' families. In the aftermath of the strike, the administration of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed to give in to several of the protesters' demands, including the right to wear civilian clothing and the right to receive mail and visits. Prisoners were also allowed to move more freely and no longer were subject to harsh penalties for refusing prison work. Official recognition of their political status, however, was not granted.



MWR "CINCO DE MAYO" PARTY



5 MAYO4

STARTS: 1730

Celebrate! **MWR RECREATION CENTER, BLAP**



MEXICAN FOOD & FIXINS -1730

Chips, Refried Beans, Tacos, Cheese Enchiladas, Mexican Rice, Dessert, Beverage, Hot Sauces

ENTERTAINMENT: MUSIC AND DANCING -1730

DJ "Leon" will turn on the hot music
1930- Dance Demonstration: *Learn to Dance* by "Angel" the Salsa, Merengue and Bachata.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES - 1730

1730- Limbo Competition
1745- Dominos Tournament - main room
1800- Tortilla Toss- Fling your tortilla into the basketball hoop
1830- Chip and Dip Tag Team Challenge- A bowl of chips and salsa is provided in the front of each participant. The first partner must eat a chip and salsa without using hands when you cannot eat any more, your partner tags and takes over until finish.
1900- Jalapeno and Cheese Sauce licking race- both on a plate must get all the jalapenos and eat them. Still leaving the cheese.
1930- Ping Pong Tournament- **SINGLE** elimination- main room



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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, MAY 05, 2004				As of: Tuesday, May 04, 2004 10:29:02 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
0:00	THE HOT LIST		BRUCE LEE: A WARRIOR'S JOURNEY	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
0:15		HEADLINE NEWS			
0:30	THE HOT LIST			HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS
0:45		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):			
1:00	AROUND THE HORN			TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE
1:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION				
1:45		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			
2:00	NHL COOL SHOTS		FROM THE FAR EAST TO THE OLD WEST: CHINESE & JAPANESE SETTLERS IN MONTANA		HEADLINE NEWS
2:30	NBA INSIDE STUFF		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
2:45		ESPNEWS			
3:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 7: NEW ORLEANS HORNETS @ MIAMI HEAT	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REEF GRIEF	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
3:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HELP WANTED/ TEA AT THE TREEDOME		CBS EVENING NEWS
4:00		NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 6: SAN JOSE SHARKS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS	BLUE'S CLUES - BLOCKS	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - DANCEMANIA	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	
5:00			ALLY MCBEAL (TV14): - FALLING UP	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES
5:30	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 1: SACRAMENTO KINGS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS				
6:00			STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - LESSONS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR
6:30		BASEBALL TONIGHT			
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	TACTICAL TO PRACTICAL (TVPG): - SPECIAL DUTY PLANES, CRIME TECH, FORENSIC SCIENCE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT
8:00	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - INVASION OF PANAMA	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
8:30		HEADLINE NEWS			
9:00	TOTALLY NASCAR	SESAME STREET	ALDRICH AMES: THE TRAITOR WITHIN		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
9:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT				
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES - BLOCKS		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - GROVE, MANE, GROW	PAULA ZAHN NOW
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - THE SINISTER STYLIST/RUNNING THE GAUNTLET	
11:00	PGA TOUR - HP CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS: FINAL ROUND (RAIN DELAYED)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REEF GRIEF	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 4	NIGHTLINE
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HELP WANTED/ TEA AT THE TREEDOME	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE GREAT GALVEZ	HEADLINE NEWS
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - DANCEMANIA	HEADLINE NEWS	
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT	
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):			
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS	
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT	
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - LESSONS	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - NO RIGHT WAY	THE O'REILLY FACTOR
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - IT'S A WONDERFUL WIFE	
15:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 7 (IF)	TODAY	TACTICAL TO PRACTICAL (TVPG): - SPECIAL DUTY PLANES, CRIME TECH, FORENSIC SCIENCE	AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL (TVPG): - THE GIRL WHO CHEATED	GOOD MORNING AMERICA
16:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - INVASION OF PANAMA	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TELENODELA	
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - GROVE, MANE, GROW		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS
17:22			ALDRICH AMES: THE TRAITOR WITHIN	PACIFIC REPORT	
17:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - THE SINISTER STYLIST/RUNNING THE GAUNTLET		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 4			THE EARLY SHOW
18:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - THE GREAT GALVEZ		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REEF GRIEF		
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HELP WANTED/ TEA AT THE TREEDOME	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	
20:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - HOMER'S TRIPLE BYPASS	PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES	FOX NEWS LIVE
20:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT				
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - DANCEMANIA		
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - NO RIGHT WAY	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		FOX NEWS LIVE
21:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - IT'S A WONDERFUL WIFE			
21:45				MADAME SOUSATZKA	
22:00	MLB - LOS ANGELES DODGERS @ FLORIDA MARLINS	AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL (TVPG): - THE GIRL WHO CHEATED	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - LESSONS		FOX NEWS LIVE
23:00		THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TELENODELA	TACTICAL TO PRACTICAL (TVPG): - SPECIAL DUTY PLANES, CRIME TECH, FORENSIC SCIENCE		HEADLINE NEWS
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS